



COVID-19 Vaccines - Frequently Asked Questions FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE IMMUNOCOMPROMISED



Why do people with weak immune systems need more doses?

People with [moderately or severely weakened immune systems](#) (e.g., blood-related cancers or certain treatments for cancer, organ transplants, and certain autoimmune conditions) are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. They are more likely to get COVID-19 than people with normal immune systems. And if they get infected, they are more likely to get very ill and spread the virus to others.

In addition, some people with weak immune systems don't build enough protection from the standard COVID-19 primary series. Because of this, it is recommended that they get more doses of vaccine plus getting some of those doses at shorter time intervals.

How many doses should I get?

If you are age 5 or older and you have a moderately or severely weakened immune system, you should get an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose to complete your *primary series*. This means a total of:

- 3 doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine - OR –
- 1 dose of the J&J vaccine and then one dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

If you are age 12 or older and you have a moderately or severely weakened immune system, you should also get at least one booster dose.

- If you got Pfizer or Moderna vaccines for your primary series, you should get a booster dose at least 3 months after your 3rd dose for a total of 4 doses.
- If you got a J&J vaccine as your primary dose and a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine as your additional dose, you should get a booster at least 2 months after the Pfizer or Moderna dose for a total of three doses.

If you are age 12 or older, you have the option to get a [2nd booster](#) of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 4 months after your first booster for a total of 5 doses. Consider getting this booster as soon as possible.

Ask your doctor about the best timing of your additional and/or booster dose(s) based on your current treatment plan. This is especially important if you are about to start or restart immunosuppressive treatment.

See the [COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule](#) at [VaccinateLAcounty.com](https://vaccinate.lacounty.com) for information on all recommended primary and booster doses for people who are immunocompromised (2nd page).

What other steps should I take to protect myself?

It is important to take other steps to protect yourself from COVID-19 in addition to getting the COVID-19 vaccine:

- **Talk to your doctor about medicine to prevent COVID-19.** A medicine called Evusheld is now available to prevent COVID-19 infection in people who can't build enough protection from the vaccine alone. It is given as 2 separate injections into the buttocks during a single visit. It can be given to people age 12 and over who weigh at least 88 pounds. For more information, see the webpage ph.lacounty.gov/covidmedicines.





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- **Wear a protective mask** such as a well-fitting respirator (e.g., N95, KN95, KF94) or a [double mask](#) for a higher level of protection. Avoid crowded indoor places or spaces with poor air flow when possible. For details, see ph.lacounty.gov/reducerisk and ph.lacounty.gov/masks.
- **Encourage the people that you spend time with to help protect you.** They should stay [up to date](#) with their COVID-19 vaccines, get a [2nd booster](#) if eligible, and take other steps to [reduce their risk](#) of getting and passing COVID-19 to you.

Where can I get more information?



- To print or view this FAQ or FAQs on other COVID-19 vaccine topics, scan the QR code or visit [COVID-19 vaccine FAQs](#).
- VaccinateLACounty.com – including [COVID-19 Vaccine Schedules](#) with graphics to show when each dose is due and information on [How to Get Vaccinated](#).
- See the CDC webpage [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised People](#) to learn more.
- Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

